

Application No.: 10/712360

Case No.: 59393US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending. Claims 8 and 18-47 have been withdrawn from consideration.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 9-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over EP 0422231 ('231) in view of EP 1238999 ('999). Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is axiomatic that, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claim, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974); *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970)(cited at MPEP § 2143.03). In the present case, no *prima facie* case of obviousness have been established because the cited reference fails to teach or suggest claim limitations recited in the present claims.

The present claims concern a method wherein a bisamidine compound is mixed with a fluoropolymer having certain pendent groups, then reacted to form triazine groups in the presence of the fluoropolymer. Claim 1, part a) recites the initial step of providing this mixture of a bisamidine compound and a fluoropolymer.

The '231 reference is not cited for any teaching of a mixture of a bisamidine compound with a fluoropolymer such as that recited in the present claims. The '999 reference is not cited for any teaching of a bisamidine compound, and therefore does not teach the mixture of a bisamidine compound with a fluoropolymer which is a prerequisite of the present claims. It follows that these references, taken alone or in combination, do not present a *prima facie* case of unpatentability with regard to the present claims.

Claims 2-7 and 9-17 each add additional features to claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable for the reasons given above. Thus, claims 2-7 and 9-17 are likewise patentable for at least the reasons given above.

In summary, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-17 under 35 USC § 103(a) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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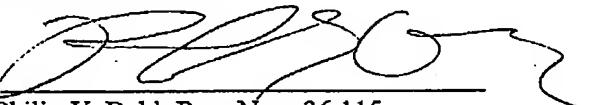
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

January 15, 2007

Date

By


Philip Y. Dahl, Reg. No.: 36,115
Telephone No.: 651-737-4029

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

Duplicate

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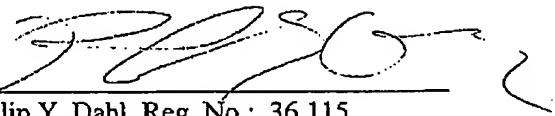
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